COMMITTEE MINUTES for ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT APPROPRIATIONS SUBCOMMITTEE

Date: January 24, 2006 **Place:** Rm 103, Supreme Ct Chamber

Convened: 1/24/2006 Recessed: Reconvened: Adjourned: 1/24/2006

9:50 AM 11:25 AM

Present: Senators Dotzler-CC, Ward-CC, Behn, Brunkhorst, Rielly

Representatives Lukan-CH, Schickel-VC, Dandekar-RM, Freeman, Hoffman, Hogg, Jacoby,

Kressig, Soderberg

Absent: None

Excused: Senator Danielson

Senator Bill Dotzler presided over the Economic Development Appropriations Subcommittee meeting and it was called to order at 9:50 a.m. Roll was called. A quorum was present.

Chairman Dotzler stated there will be presentations by the Iowa Finance Authority and the Department of Workforce Development.

Chairman Dotzler introduced Bret Mills, the Executive Director of the Iowa Finance Authority (IFA) to present an overview of the operation of the IFA. Mr. Mills stated it was important for the members to meet those responsible for executing the department's business on a day-to-day basis and introduced several key members of his staff

A handout entitled "Presentation to Economic Development Appropriations Subcommittee" was distributed. Mr. Mills gave a page-by-page explanation of the handout. After his presentation he, with the aid of the accompanying staff members answered the committee's questions.

Senator Ward ask the following questions: How do other states fund affordable housing, how does Iowa rate when compared to other states, and do we have a need that is not being met? After discussion, Mr. Mills said he will gather the information and get back to the Committee with the answers.

Senator Brunkhorst inquired about the home ownership benchmarks they are trying to attain. Mr. Mills will forward the information to Senator Brunkhorst. Chairman Dotzler stated a subcommittee to address the issue will be appointed shortly.

Senator Behn called the members' attention to the last page of the handout and noted that the Economic Development Loan Program was over a billion dollars and inquired about the qualifications for issuing those funds. There will be a follow-up on this issue.

Chairman Dotzler asked for a motion to approve the minutes of the last meeting. Senator Behn moved and Senator Brunkhorst seconded the motion. The minutes were approved.

Chairman Dotzler introduced Richard Running, the Director of Workforce Development. Mr. Running introduced the Commissioner of the Department of Labor Services, Dave Neil and the Commissioner for Workers' Compensation, Chris Godfrey.

A handout was distributed and Mr. Running and Mr. Neil aided in the discussion.

Representative Dandekar asked what the New Iowans' Centers are doing for the new people coming into the state. In addition, Representative Dandekar asked if the New Iowans' Centers and Cultural Centers are on the Department's web site. Jane Barto, Deputy Directory said they are not, but can be easily added. The Department follow-up on the request.

Chairman Dotzler inquired about how the Federal cuts are affecting the

Workforce Development programs and how are they planning to address the cuts.
Chairman Dotzler reminded the members that subcommittees are being assigned and if members have a particular interest, they should inform the Committee's leadership.
Representative Hogg moved to arise. The meeting adjourned at 11:25 a.m.
Respectfully submitted,
Senator Bill Dotzler

Jo Ann West, Committee Secretary

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